The attached Appendix includes a marked-up copy of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

I.   THE CLAIMS DEFINE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action rejects claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,209,048 B1 to Wolff (hereinafter "Wolff") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,021,429 to Danknick et al. (hereinafter "Danknick") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,276,440 to Jolissaint et al. (hereinafter "Jolissaint"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Neither Wolff alone, or in combination with Danknick or Jolissaint, discloses, teaches or suggests a network system comprising a controller or a controller computer that selects a terminal on the network and where the selected terminal obtains information on the other terminals to forward to the controller or to the control computer, as recited in claims 1, 3 and 8. Further, none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests a process for controlling a plurality of terminals connected to a network, the process steps including the features of selecting one of the terminals through the controller; causing the selected terminal to transmit a request to the other terminals to obtain information on the other terminals, and receive the information from the other terminals; and causing the selected terminal to transmit the obtained information on the other terminals and information on the selected terminal to the controller as recited in claims 15 and 16.

Further yet, neither Wolff alone, or in combination with Danknick and Jolissaint discloses, teaches or suggests the features of the terminal for connecting via network to a plurality of other terminals as recited in claim 11, or the recording medium features recited in claim 17.

The Office Action admits that Wolff does not teach or disclose one or more features of the claimed invention. Neither Danknick alone or in combination with Jolissaint, makes

-4-

up for the deficiencies of Wolff. For example, in Danknick, a terminal which functions as a

server is determined among terminals without selecting a specified terminal by its list

manager. This is different than the claimed features where a controller or a control computer

selects a terminal on the network and the selected terminal obtains information on the other

terminals to forward to the controller or the control computer, as claimed in claims 1, 3, 8, 11,

15-17.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits, that taken separately or together, Wolff,

Danknick and/or Jolissaint do not teach, or suggest a present invention as claimed in

claims 1, 3, 8, 11 and 15-17.

As required by MPEP Section 706.02(j), to establish a *prima facie* case of

obviousness, these basic criteria must be met:

1)   There must be some suggestion or motivation in the references themselves or

in the knowledge generally available;

2)   Reasonable expectation of success;

3)   The prior art reference must teach or suggest all claim limitations.

The first and third requirements have not been met by the rejections of the Office

Action.

Neither Wolff nor Danknick or Jolissaint show any motivation to modify the structure

to achieve the claimed invention, and the Office Action clearly admits that there is an

essential part of the claimed invention missing in Wolff.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3, 8, 11 and 15-17

are distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 2-7, which depend from claim 1, claims 9-

10, which depend from claim 8, claims 12-14, which depend from claim 11, and claims 18-

21, which depend from claim 17, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least

the reasons discussed as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:GPS/dlh

Attachment:
     Appendix

Date: May 14, 2002

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461

APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

1.　　(Twice Amended) A network system comprising:

a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and

a controller ~~controlling~~ that controls the terminals via the network;

the controller comprising:

selecting means for selecting one of the plurality of terminals; and

requesting means for requesting the selected terminal to transmit, to the controller, information on all the interconnected terminals;

wherein the selected terminal transmits a request to the other interconnected terminals to obtain the information on the other terminals, receives the information from the other terminals, and forwards to the controller the information from the other terminals and information on the selected terminal

~~at least one of the terminals, as designated by a user, including an information obtaining means for automatically obtaining information on the other terminals therefrom, and a transmitting means for transmitting to the controller information on the at least one terminal and the obtained information on the other terminals by the information obtaining means.~~

3.　　(Twice Amended) A network system ~~comprising:~~

~~a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and~~

~~a controller controlling the terminals via the network;~~

~~at least two of the terminals, as designated by a user, each including an information obtaining means for automatically obtaining information on the other terminals therefrom, and a transmitting means for transmitting to the controller information on the each~~

~~terminal and the information obtained about the other terminals by the information obtaining~~

~~means;~~

~~the controller including a selecting means for selecting one of the at least two~~ ~~terminals, a requesting means for requesting the transmitting means of the terminal selected~~ ~~by the selecting means to transmit to the controller the information on all the interconnected~~ ~~terminals, and a switching means for switching from the selected terminal to the other or~~ ~~another of the at least two terminals~~ according to claim 1 wherein at least two terminals are selected by the selecting means, and one of the at least two terminals is designated by the controller.

8.   (Twice Amended) A network system comprising:

a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and

a control computer controlling the terminals via the network;

wherein at least one of the terminals~~, as designated by a user, including a~~ ~~controller for automatically obtaining information on the other terminals therefrom and~~ ~~transmitting the obtained information on the other terminals and information on the at least~~ ~~one terminal to the computer~~ selected by the control computer transmits a request to the other terminals to obtain the information on the other terminals, receives the information from the other terminals, and forwards to the controller the information from the other terminals and information on the selected terminal.

11.   (Twice Amended) A ~~user-designated~~ terminal for connecting via a network to a plurality of other terminals, the ~~user-designated~~ terminal comprising:

requesting means for requesting the other terminals to obtain information on the other terminals and to forward the obtained information on the other terminals to the terminal;

—————————————— ~~an information obtaining means for automatically obtaining information on the other terminals therefrom;~~ and

a transmitting means for transmitting to the network information on the ~~user-designated~~ terminal and the obtained information ~~obtained about~~ on the other terminals ~~by the information obtaining means~~ based on a request from the network.

15.   (Twice Amended) A process for controlling by ~~means of~~ a controller connected to a network a plurality of terminals connected to the network, the process comprising the steps of:

selecting one of the terminals through the controller;

causing the selected terminal to ~~automatically~~ transmit a request to the other terminals to obtain information on the other terminals, and receive the information from the other terminals; and

causing the selected terminal to transmit the obtained information on the other terminals and information on the selected terminal to the controller.

16.   (Amended) The process defined in claim 15, wherein the selected terminal is adapted to obtain the information on the other terminals therefrom, and transmit the obtained information on the other terminals ~~together with~~ and the information on the selected terminal to the controller.

17.   (Twice Amended) A recording medium that stores a program for execution by a controller in a network system including a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network and controlled by the controller via the network,

at least two of the terminals ~~designated by a user~~ being each adapted to obtain information on the other terminals therefrom, and transmit the obtained information on the other terminals and information on the each terminal to the controller,

the program including the steps of:

selecting one of the at least two terminals through the controller; and

requesting the selected terminal to transmit ~~the information on all the~~

~~terminals to the controller~~ a request to the other terminals to obtain the information on the

other terminals, receive the information on the other terminals from the other terminals and

forward to the controller the information on the other terminals and information on the

selected terminal.